

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please add the following paragraphs after paragraph [0011] at page 3:

[0012] FIG. 1a is an exploded schematic illustration of FIG. 1.

[0013] FIG. 1b is plan view of a suction line connected to the manifold of FIG. 1.

Please add the following paragraphs after paragraph [0065] at page 6:

[0066] 71... Connection port

[0067] 72... Suction line

Please replace paragraph [0096], with the following amended paragraph:

[0096] In the apparatus, the manifold 1 is ring-shaped, and branches 3 to which blood filter units 2 are connected are provided downward from the underside of the manifold main pipe at regular intervals. Each branch 3 is provided with a valve 4 in the middle of the branch and a connector 5 at the lower end. Connector 5 is made movable in the vertical direction as shown by dotted lines A to facilitate attaching and detaching of blood filter units 2 as shown in FIG. 1a.

Please add the following paragraph after paragraph [0096] at page 15:

[0097] FIG. 1b shows that in the case of a ring shaped manifold 1, a connecting port 71 to a suction line 72 is provided at the center.